

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-78 and 151-165 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-27, 29-31, 34-53, 55-57, 60-78, and 151-165 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931 (hereinafter "Alexander").

Claims 2, 28, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Hendricks U.S. Patent No. 6,181,335 (hereinafter "Hendricks").

Claims 6-7, 32-33, and 58-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Herz U.S. Patent No. 6,088,722 (hereinafter "Herz").

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection of Claims 1, 27, and 53

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 27, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander. Applicants have amended claims 1, 27, and 53 to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 27, and 53, is directed towards a method and systems for aiding a user in identifying television programs to view. More particularly, applicants' invention involves monitoring a program that the user is currently viewing on a particular channel, determining at least one particular attribute of the program currently being viewed (e.g., genre, rating, critic's rating, actors, scheduled program length, or any other suitable parameter), and identifying program listings for programs to suggest to the user based only on the particular attribute or attributes. For example, if an attribute of the program currently being viewed is sports genre, then suggested programs may include other programs having a sports genre. Applicants' invention allows the user to browse through the listings for suggested programs by displaying a display region containing at least one of the program listings for the suggested programs.

Alexander refers to an electronic program guide that collects information about a viewer's viewing habits into a "Viewer's Profile." This information is continuously collected and updated based on the viewer's usage of the television and the electronic program guide (among other things). Based on the information stored in the Viewer's Profile, various aspects of the electronic

program guide are customized. For example, if the Viewer's Profile indicates that the viewer prefers to watch a particular television channel during a particular range of time of the day, then the electronic program guide automatically tunes to that television channel when turned on during the particular range of time of the day. Also, the program listings of a program guide grid are arranged according the viewer's preferences as indicated in the Viewer's Profile.

In rejecting claims 1, 27, and 53, the Examiner contends that Alexander discloses monitoring which television programming is viewed by the user. Although Alexander refers to compiling information about which television programming is viewed by the user, Alexander makes no mention of identifying program listings to suggest to the user based only on attributes of the currently viewed program. Rather, Alexander refers to compiling information based on a compilation of prior viewing history and customizing the program listings displayed by the electronic program guide according to conclusions made based on this prior viewing history.

Moreover, Alexander refers to maintaining more than one Viewer Profile (e.g., each for a different household member). Applicants' invention, however, has no need for such profiles because only the program

currently being viewed is used in suggesting other programs to the user.

Applicants' invention bases its suggestions to the user on the current state of mind of the user as opposed to a generalized prediction of the user's state of mind at a particular time based on the user's prior viewing history.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 27, and 53 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 27, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection
of Claims 151, 156, and 161

The Examiner rejected claims 151, 156, and 161 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 151, 156, and 161, is directed towards a method and systems for displaying on a television screen: video associated with a program, and program listings in a display region. The program listings are limited based on program attributes of television programs that have been viewed by the user. The relative importance of the program attributes used to limit the program listings can be adjusted by the user.

In rejecting claims 151, 156, and 161, the Examiner contends that Alexander shows limiting which program listings are displayed and points to column 30, lines 53-58 of Alexander. This portion of Alexander refers to presenting "favorite channels at the top/beginning of the Grid Guide in descending order according to the Viewer's Profile." Neither in this portion of Alexander, nor in any other portion of Alexander, can applicants find anything that shows limiting the display of program listings based on program attributes of television programs that have been viewed by the user such that certain program listings are not displayed. Rather, Alexander shows rearranging information in a program guide based on a Viewer's Profile without removing any of the information.

Applicants' invention attempts to reduce the amount of information displayed to the user by limiting the program listings based on program attributes of television programs previously viewed by the user. Alexander, to the contrary, does not reduce the amount of information, but rather attempts to organize it in some meaningful way based on a Viewer's Profile.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 151, 156, and 161 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the

rejection of claims 151, 156, and 161 under 35 U.S.C.
§ 102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection
of Claims 2-26, 28-52, 54-78, 152-155, 157-160, and 162-
165

Claims 3, 10, 17, 26, 29, 36, 52, 55, 62, and 78 have been amended to more particularly define the invention and to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification.

Claims 8, 9, 34, 35, 60, and 61 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 2-7, 10-26, 28-33, 36-52, 54-59, 62-78, 152-155, 157-160, and 162-165 depend from claims 1, 27, 53, 151, 156, and 161, and are allowable because claims 1, 27, 53, 151, 156, and 161 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-26, 28-52, 54-78, 152-155, 157-160, and 162-165 be withdrawn.

New claims 178-206

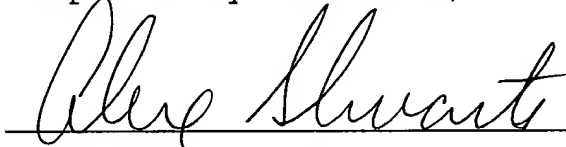
Applicants have added new claims 178-201, which are allowable for at least those reasons that claims 1-7, and 10-26 are allowable.

Applicants have added new claims 204-208, which are allowable for at least those reasons that claims 161-165 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Shvarts", is written over a horizontal line.

Alexander Shvarts
Registration No. 47,943
Agent for Applicants
FISH & NEAVE
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000